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CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

AFFILIATED

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DAY NURSERIES, INC.

130 EAST TWENTY-SECOND ST., NEW YORK, N. Y.

VOL. XV, No. 2

## BULLETIN

FEBRUARY, 1936

OCT 28 1937

"This linking together of the agencies throughout the country gives strength to each."

—BEN TAUB

### J. Prentice Murphy—Child Welfare Leader

KATHARINE F. LENROOT

Chief, Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor

"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?"

WITH these words the funeral service in Philadelphia on the fourth of February for Prentice Murphy began. Yet those who share the sorrow of his loss—and there are many from all walks of life and in all parts of the country who feel a keen sense of personal bereavement—know that a prince has not fallen but has only passed gently through a door which the radiance of his spirit in the years of earthly life had opened wide.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace," was in Prentice Murphy's mind after the news of Jane Addams' passing came to him. Death had no claim on him but only life, which he lived

fully, understandingly, lovingly, sharing untiringly the problems and burdens of those within the range of personal association and reaching out beyond all limits of race or class or nation, in sympathy and comprehension. Of him, at 54, it could be said, "Being made perfect in a short space, he fulfilled a long time."

So personal were his relationships with those he served that he could say with Dr. Arthur Compton: "I think, therefore, we are not wrong in embodying the significance of a spiritual world to ourselves in the feeling of a personal relationship, for our whole approach to it is bound up with those aspects of consciousness in which a personality is centered."

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### Gaining Ground in the League's Campaign

NATION-WIDE revival of interest in the plight of helpless and neglected children, and new appreciation of what the Child Welfare League of America can do to meet their needs in the present crisis, are reflected in the reports of field activities and in the response to our appeal for individual memberships and contributions. Nothing in recent years has done more to attract widespread attention to our work than has the organization of committees of men and women in the larger cities and towns of the country in support of our new membership campaign.

The League is slowly but steadily gaining ground in its efforts to recruit individual memberships in addition to the invaluable agency group memberships. There have been many requests from im-

portant centers for more speakers and more literature to tell of the constructive work of the League, why we now seek \$100,000, and how the money will be used when we get it. It is significant that community leaders, known for their ability to put through whatever they get behind, are willing to serve as local chairmen and committee members.

OUR message and our appeal are being spread all over the country. Centers that have been dormant are renewing activity. Others, learning what similar-sized cities and towns are doing, have expressed determination not to be outdone. Certain other centers which could not hitherto be organized owing to community chest campaigns give evidence of willingness to present our claim for public support.

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## Tribute to J. Prentice Murphy

**A**LL those deprived of the friendship and guidance of J. Prentice Murphy by his death on February 2 will cherish innumerable memories of him. Most will speak only informally of him. Believing that more formal tribute is also fitting, we are publishing expressions from a few of the persons who represent some of his great interests and close associations:

MRS. EDITH M. H. BAYLOR, supervisor, department of study and training, Children's Aid Association, Boston:

"I have been trying to decide which of Prentice Murphy's extraordinary qualities of mind and heart endeared him to so many people, and I believe that it was his ability to give his complete attention to the interests of the person with whom he was talking. One felt that he really cared, that what one did mattered to him. One quality might account for this attitude. I mean his selflessness. It will be hard to go on without him."

PAUL T. BEISSER, general secretary, Henry Watson Children's Aid Society, Baltimore:

"How does one write a tribute to a man whose modesty banned tributes? The earnest, prayerful words in which he spoke to me about the National Conference presidency at Montréal still echo in my memory. To him it did not seem a tribute, only a responsibility. That characterizes him more than anything else. He was sensitized to a high degree of personal responsibility for the world's needs. His ear was quick to catch the faint cry of the oppressed, his eye keen to discern injustice, and his voice a clarion call, always unafraid.

"How describe what his passing means? One must first struggle through the numbing shock of personal loss. He gave of himself so generously in personal relationships that to a countless host of friends there comes now the sensing of a great void.

"To the field of child-placing he brought the talent that could translate Charles Birtwell's gentle understanding of children into a professional skill in individualizing children's problems and the treatment of them. To child welfare in general he brought leadership of vision, depth and dynamic power, as those who served with him in the Child Welfare League of America can testify.

"What the whole field of social work received as his priceless gift can be seen in the printed annals of the National Conference. Through a long list of addresses from 1912 to the last day of the 1935 con-

ference runs the golden thread of philosophical, spiritual humaneness, which he wove into the thinking of social work. Because it was so much the man himself, he handed it on like a lighted torch for many of us to carry.

"It must be that his sturdy, vital spirit will always march along, and to me, as to many, enshrined in the words by someone, sometime penned: 'Untiring sympathizer, tender critic, dear friend.'

FRANCIS BIDDLE, national campaign chairman, National Committee on Child Welfare of the Child Welfare League of America:

"The last time that Prentice Murphy spoke in public was at a meeting of the Child Welfare League of America in Philadelphia on January 23. He had taken on the campaign organization work in Philadelphia in addition to speaking through the country to help form local committees—for he believed that the executives of children's organizations, members of the League, must give their time and energy to convince the public of the necessity of supporting this national association. His certainty that the public would respond generously steadied and warmed all of us who were working with him.

"This quality of faith shone in him always. It was sturdy and positive, rooted, I suppose, in his deep love of children. It was as if, someone who worked with him said, he took them in his arms and blessed them. But he teased them, too, in the way children love to be teased; and there were toys in the office; and even if things were pretty bad at home, they were never as bad after you'd had a talk with Mr. Murphy. He gave you courage; and everyone needs courage. The day after he died a child of twelve, who, like all of them, adored him, sent a bunch of red roses to his office.

"To be infinitely patient; to be gentle and kindly; to understand—that was the main thing, understanding; never to refuse to help; to be tolerant—these youngsters have such a hard time, and we keep forgetting our own youth.

"He never spared himself. He was infinitely generous; and yet so simple that he disarmed self-importance, and brought men and women together by his deeper and clearer social insight.

"After he died a man whom he had helped wrote of him: 'In fair weather or foul he went the even tenor of his way, soft-spoken, gentle and with the divine light in his heart.'"

(Continued on page 9)

## Covering the Country

MRS. FRANCIS R. STRAWBRIDGE

(Talk given at opening campaign luncheon, Philadelphia, January 23, 1936. Mrs. Strawbridge is membership chairman, League's Philadelphia campaign committee; chairman, Philadelphia section, League of Women Voters; formerly chairman, Council of Social Agencies, Philadelphia.)

**F**AR be it from me to slight the word *father*, but with apologies to the gentlemen I would suggest that the three words over which we wax most sentimental are *mother, home and children*.

They are three words which really belong together, but they are also three words which with our increased difficulties are now too frequently separated, and with disastrous national results. And I am not being either sentimental or old-fashioned when I say they are three of the most vital words in our language.

Of the three, *child* is the most important because obviously the child is the cornerstone of our future national life. And it seems to me it is sense, not sentiment, which—even disregarding humanitarian reasons—should prompt us to see that our children

are adequately and intelligently cared for. I often wonder how thoughtful people can expect children who have known nothing but want and unhappiness to grow up into staunch supporters of our system of government when their bodies and minds have been starved and dwarfed since infancy.

Most of us know what we are doing locally for children, and we feel as individuals we have done our bit if we faithfully serve as a board member for some child-caring agency here. That does not really cover the picture, for we must see it as it affects the whole country, realizing that state lines are easily crossed, and that in periods of stress the floating population greatly increases. Therefore we cannot relax because our city or our state may be up to the average standard.

It is said there are in a year nearly half a million children cared for by about 2,000 agencies and institutions in the United States.

(Continued on page 8)

## Lacks Cannot Be Supplied Later

LILLIAN M. GILBRETH, Sc.D.

(Talk, in part, given at tea held by Mrs. H. Strongman Miller, Waldorf-Astoria Towers, New York, January 23, 1936, in the interest of the League. Dr. Gilbreth is a member of the League's National Committee on Child Welfare.)

**N**O ONE could possibly have lived through these last years intelligently without finding out how cruelly the children of the nation have suffered, physically and emotionally.

In the families where there has been unemployment, there has been all too often lack of proper shelter, food and clothing, even of the irreducible minimums. These were apparent, but in many other families there were reductions in budgets which resulted in illness, or at least low resistance. This last is apt to continue throughout the years, both because there are bound to be low budgets for years to come, and because the low resistance may not be seen or even suspected by the untrained observer. Work in the field of the unemployed demonstrates the results, and the dangers.

So also does work with the employed. Many have had to cut down their budgets. Many others have been afraid to spend, even for necessities. Added

to this has been the great emotional strain of trouble and of worry, which affects children whether or not they actually participate in them.

A book like *The Diagnosis and Treatment of Behavior-Problem Children*, by Harry Jay Baker and Virginia Traphagen, proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that even carefully nurtured children in united families and happy homes need study and help. How much more do the children in poor, unhappy homes, and the homeless children, need such wise and organized help as the Child Welfare League of America can give!

We in this country are proud of our progress, our efficient work and our provision for leisure. But we cannot proceed into a future that will mean the full life for our citizens without planning intelligently for security and serenity for our children. These depend on their acquiring a philosophy of life, and the techniques of living that mean physical adequacy, mental alertness, emotional peace and social adjustment. We must see that children have these, for if they lack them in childhood we can never supply that lack later.

## Testing Our Civilization

JAMES S. PLANT, M.D.

(Highlights from talk given January 20, 1936, in South Orange, N. J., at opening campaign meeting of League's Northern New Jersey committee, of which Dr. Plant is chairman; he is director, Essex County Juvenile Clinic, Newark, N. J.)

**I**T is fair to measure any civilization on the basis of the extent to which it assures life and some measure of contentment to those who cannot gain this for themselves.

Perhaps always our first interest in children is as a measure of the success of our own ventures in building a civilization. We will never be really content to put the results of our labors to test unless they include as their foremost results the protection of and promise of fair play to those who are too weak to get these things for themselves.

**W**E, in our generation, have a peculiar duty to our children because of the problems which we have presented to them:

(a) Specialization in function has suddenly removed from the family many of its age-old functions. To a large number of younger people this has seemed a sign of the disintegration of the family.

(b) Specialization has also "taken apart" life so that the child does not see anything as a completed cycle in life. He does not see the beginning and ending of anything which touches his life. We wonder much as to the irresponsibility of children when we give them so little chance to see cause and effect in life situations.

(c) We encourage our children to question every sort of authority. We encourage them to look back of every position and every robe to see the true man. We can see this as a magnificent goal at the same time that we admit this is the first of many generations faced with the problem of questioning the symbols of power, justice and authority which man finds it so easy to recognize.

(d) We who have always had plenty to do—plenty of ways of "escaping into work"—suddenly shut these doors in the face of our children. They are more and more faced with the problem of leisure time. A pioneer culture that has believed (and had to believe) that salvation lay only in work, now presents to the children the problem of finding new goals—of discovering that where we could escape from human relationships into the rush of "things to be done" they must somehow learn to find within themselves the answers to life.

**D**EPENDENT children, delinquent children, children in trouble—these show us the weak points of our pattern. It is only where a civilization breaks that one finds its flaws.

The importance of the maladjusted child is that he is constantly the keen, sensitive indicator of our weak points. A civilization can grow, and grow safely, only to the extent that it learns its lessons from its failures. It is well to have societies to help the maladjusted child; it is imperative that these societies, through meetings such as this, interpret to all people the lessons of the maladjusted children. It is only as we learn from their failures that we can solidly progress as a civilization.

### Regional Conference in Chicago

WITH "Child Welfare—What's Holding It Back?" as a theme, the Midwestern Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America will be held in Chicago on March 13 and 14, Friday and Saturday. The conference committee chairman is Louis E. Evans, division director, Children's and Minor's Service Division, Cook County Bureau of Public Welfare, 505 East 50th Place, Chicago.

### Have You Made Reservation?

IT is estimated that 10,000 persons will come to the National Conference of Social Work, Atlantic City, May 24-30, 1936—the largest number that have ever attended.

The Ritz-Carlton, headquarters hotel of the Child Welfare League of America, writes that all rooms below \$4.00 have now been taken, and the majority of the \$4.00 rooms. Of the double rooms with twin beds a number are left at rates upwards from \$5.00.

Reservations should be made direct with the hotels.

**\$100,000**

**I**n order to maintain and increase its services the Child Welfare League of America is seeking \$100,000 through individual memberships of three types: *Donors*, \$100 and over; *Sustaining*, \$50 to \$99; and *Contributing*, \$5 to \$49. Checks are payable to J. G. Harbord, Treasurer, Child Welfare League of America, Inc., 130 E. 22nd St., New York, N. Y.

## Children First?

**TODAY** the fate of many a child is hanging upon a mere thread of chance that some one will be able to come to his rescue. Difficulties in bringing help to thousands of children throughout the country are shown in reports which are coming from various member agencies of the League in answer to a brief questionnaire. Following are excerpts from some of the replies received to date:

**VIRGINIA.** "Children in need of long time or permanent care for whom there was no chance of our finding a permanent free or adoptive home have, of course, of necessity been refused. A great many of these children are left in very unsalutary and unwholesome environment either in the homes of their parents or of other inadequate relatives; or in the almshouses; a few of the older children are in the jails; some of them are committed to the State Department as delinquents; and others have not fared even so well. I should estimate . . . that the total number in the State who really should have some form of foster care and are not getting it is in excess of 1,000 children."

**PENNSYLVANIA.** An agency reports: "We have a waiting list of one hundred ninety-four children, which indicates the demands we are unable to meet at the moment as our funds are in active service for our present quota of children. The area represented by these children measures from the eastern states as far west as and including Kansas."

**MARYLAND.** "The demands upon us are determined, to a considerable extent, by the knowledge of the agencies of the community that we have reached a point where intake must be strictly limited. Clinics are hesitant to call a case to our attention because they know we are being strained to carry the dependency load. . . . The need of which we are very conscious and about which we have some estimates is the neglect cases which the Department of Welfare would like to refer to us for boarding care."

**MICHIGAN.** "The society does not have adequate funds with which to provide free board in many instances when needed. The situation arises in this fashion. Requests come to Judges of Probate of the State in smaller and rural counties in cases where children are badly neglected and where parents are inadequate. The county is financially impoverished. The Judge of Probate requests free care."

**FLORIDA.** "Due to the depression, the bursting of the boom in Florida, the belief of the giving public that the Government is or ought to be caring for all who are in need, and due to the tremendous increase in taxes, and other reasons, the income of our society has been reduced by practically two-thirds in the last five years. Because of this fact we have had to discontinue practically entirely all forms of child welfare work other than the acceptance of legal wards for placement in homes for adoption."

**ILLINOIS.** An agency in Illinois estimates that over 4,000 children have been affected during the past year by the agency's inability to meet the demands upon it for service to children "recognized as homeless and dependent" and "others presenting great behavior or social problems."

(Continued on page 12)

### Our New Partnership

As president of the National Federation of Day Nurseries, I want to greet our new friends in the Child Welfare League of America.

I am confident that the benefits derived from the affiliation of the League and the Federation during 1936 will be reciprocal.

Leaders in your field have an abiding sense of the fundamentals of child welfare. We, in our field, for forty years have been planning the patterns of children's living, and from custodial care solely we have branched out into work that naturally interlocks with that of the League.

Our day nursery program aims to give the child physical care, social adjustment, education—all of a high standard, under the guidance of experts. Our interest does not stop at the nursery, for we enter the homes of the children. We plan with the parents, going along with them in their problems, home life, ideals, culture.

Mapping the course of our youthful generation into the land of physical and emotional security cannot be done by any single organization. With the co-operation of the League, we can go on so much farther and so much better than we can alone.

It is my belief that in the future, perhaps not in our day of living, all welfare organizations will be allied, and that the natural foundation of all welfare work will be a thorough knowledge and recognition of children's rights in this world.

—MARGERY G. WELLES

## BULLETIN

Published monthly (omitted in July and August) as the official organ of the Child Welfare League of America and the National Federation of Day Nurseries.

C. C. CARSTENS, Editor  
FLORENCE M. PHARO, Assistant Editor

The Bulletin is in large measure a Forum for discussion in print of child welfare problems. Endorsement does not necessarily go with the printing of opinions expressed over a signature.

Annual subscription, \$1.00      Single copies, 10c.  
Checks payable to Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

## Our Rural Children

THE proverbial ounce has been decidedly lacking in the social tragedies of our rural children and their families. And frequently we have even failed to mete out the well-known pound.

In the cities, although we have not learned all the lessons by any means, we have discovered to a large extent how to organize our social services—to save a child's own home for him, to protect him from cruelty, or to provide foster care for him in an institution or family home. We are still pioneering in our efforts to reach the boys and girls who live far beyond the gates of the city.

Today, through the stimulation of the Social Security Act, the rural child is beckoning to us as never before. It seems that we are finally to assume the long-postponed responsibility of exploration, of doing a real job in working out the rural problem.

Forward-looking persons think we need *demonstrations* of what can be done in the rural districts. Any such demonstration must involve a coordinated program in which the preventive side of child dependence will be emphasized.

In urban communities it is considered advisable for a private child welfare organization to be separate, and not a "little addendum" to a family welfare agency. In the rural areas, where public service must usually be depended upon, however, it is logical for the same unit to include family service and adjustment, protective work, and foster care.

There is a growing recognition in the cities that clear-cut public service is needed, and that the private agencies are going to find their complementary relationship to it. Our challenge is to find a comparable interlocking of private and public interest in the sparsely populated sections, where public service must usually do everything alone.

The executive of the rural unit must be responsible

for utilizing citizen interest—through educational participation such as volunteer service and membership on advisory committees. Drawing in the citizen is a local task.

It is through the state departments of welfare that both rulings and moneys will pass from the Federal Children's Bureau in the administration of the pertinent sections of the Social Security Act. Success of demonstrations in rural districts would be given impetus by the designation in a state welfare department of a special leader to interpret the new opportunities and to guide the development of rural facilities.

Although many of our trails have not yet been blazed, we believe that we shall succeed in finding our rural children—at last.

—C. C. CARSTENS

## J. Prentice Murphy—Child Welfare Leader

*(Continued from page 1)*

It was, perhaps, with this in mind that he said in his address at the last National Conference of Social Work, "We understand better, by reason of our experiences with them [the people on relief] that life centers around a few great events and relationships, that experiences must be one's own." He expressed a similar thought when he said, "Individuality remains the most notable of attributes and its understanding is the most difficult for the social worker, whether as artist, scientist, or professional man."

It is a great loss to the literature of social work that Prentice Murphy did not live to write his presidential address for the National Conference of Social Work of 1937, which, friends relate, was already taking shape in his mind. Fortunately, he had already written a paper for the Atlantic City conference. His entire professional life was lived as executive of private child-caring agencies in Philadelphia and Boston. Among all the organizations he served—at so great cost of strength, in the hours apart from his executive duties—the Child Welfare League of America was surely nearest to his heart and commanded his first allegiance. He spent himself during these last months in attempting to put the League's finances upon a basis of greater security. For years a member of its board of directors and an officer, he served from 1932 to 1934 as president of the League.

Public service challenged his interest not only in these later years when its significance has been made manifest to all but also in the earlier years when

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little professional social work was carried on outside the private field.

From the beginning of the United States Children's Bureau he had a rare and penetrating appreciation of its possibilities and its significance. In his address at the Philadelphia Conference dinner, which was a tribute to the twenty years of work of the Children's Bureau and to its great first chief, Julia Lathrop, who had died only a few days earlier, he interpreted what the Children's Bureau stood for. It expressed, he said, "A spirit of understanding, without which the operations of a government of individuals in all of their complicated relationships would utterly fail, and . . . this understanding very properly begins with little children."

Prentice Murphy's concern for human values as expressed in the Federal Government was by no means confined to the Children's Bureau or to the three great national child welfare conferences held in Washington which he served with distinction. He participated actively in planning and advocating relief and social security programs, and in many other ways served the official agencies of the Nation.

In the last years he gave far beyond his strength to matters connected with public welfare administration in his own State, and his last official act, when he was already ill, was to attend a conference in Harrisburg. As a writer and speaker able to present matters affecting child welfare in the broadest terms of economics, public health, government, case work, philosophy, and human relationship, he was in great and increasing demand.

Prentice Murphy would not wish even the most fragmentary and incomplete tribute to omit his tender comprehension of the problems of the unmarried mother, usually so young, so helpless, so bewildered, and so condemned. In his Philadelphia address on the Federal Children's Bureau he said, "Running through all history is one—the unmarried mother—who has been the subject of venomous persecution, ignorant hatred, and unwise and unjust methods of care. Into the situation has been introduced the element of sanity, knowledge, hope, love, and idealism. I can think of no finer service."

HE was too intensely alive with reference to all that made up his world to make it possible to portray in crudest form the essence of his spirit.

His friendships were not limited to those of his own time, but extended back through the ages, to the philosophers, poets and statesmen of old. His letters to friends recently bereaved revealed his philosophy and the depth of his spiritual insight and

understanding. In one of them he said, "The help we need must come out of ourselves and out of our philosophy of life. Fortunate are we if this philosophy includes relationships which reach out beyond our own narrow selves, giving us the power to see that the very universality of sorrow and suffering has a significance for our own particular burdens. Somewhere Anatole France has said that God punishes us by granting our requests. We do grow in part through expression, through the attainment of goals, through the satisfaction of desires. There is, however, as fine, if not a finer, growth in the brave and understanding acceptance of that which we, as human beings, would like to prevent or forestall. I believe that real religion teaches this. I believe that it helps us to see that there are realities on the side of our spiritual lives which are more tangible than the things we see and feel or possess."

Of Prentice Murphy it can be truly said: "But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die; and their departure was taken for misery; and their going away for utter destruction; but they are in peace."

The children of America shall continue to be more safe and more regarded because, for a space, Prentice Murphy lived and thought and worked among us.

### Gaining Ground in the League's Campaign

*(Continued from page 1)*

The work is beginning to show results. Memberships are coming in—not fast enough, but with steadily increasing volume—and the number received to date is distinctly encouraging in view of the fact that the plan to ask for individual memberships was not decided upon until after the last National Conference of Social Work.

Perhaps no better instance can be quoted to illustrate the kind of interest and determination which is being shown than the case of a woman member of a committee in a large city. She was pessimistic about soliciting before she started out to help in the League campaign. In a very short time she reported \$1,210 in memberships and contributions. "It was not difficult, and I rather enjoyed it," she said. It is this willingness to try that is the final test in the success of our effort.

THE following extracts from reports by chairmen and others are illuminating:

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ST. LOUIS. Mrs. Norris H. Allen and her committee are hard at work. On January 16 she wrote: "We feel that the quicker we start, the better. Please send 300 subscription cards." On January 27 she wired: "Send air mail 150 subscription cards." The afternoon of February 7, the committee put on a broadcast describing the work of the League and the part of St. Louis in the League program.

COLUMBUS. Word comes of the purposes of a committee, organized from the impetus of the League's campaign, to "consider what action might be taken regarding a citizen's backing of better child welfare in this State since the Sherrill Committee [government survey] has been recommending more adequate budgets for the child welfare units of the State. Some of the committee members are talking of a state-wide citizens' committee to stand for principles in child welfare in this State."

DOVER, DELAWARE. Miss Elsie Spring, associate secretary of the Delaware State Board of Charities: "It is my belief that the League can perform a very real service by making our citizens aware of our need for services to needy children and of our need for good standards of performance. I am convinced that no other group can do this so well as the League."

INDIANAPOLIS. Miss Gertrude Taggart: "I am much gratified by the response of the committee, perhaps 'heartened' would be better. Let's hope the League gets something approaching the response and support it deserves." Later returns show that the committee is meeting success.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Elwood Street, director of public welfare, referring to the forthcoming effort there in behalf of the League, says: "The moral would be clear that if other cities can do this, Washington ought to be able to do it too."

"NEITHER snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," wrote the great Greek historian, Herodotus, and so he might well have written of the difficulties under which campaign meetings have been held during January in all the country east of the Mississippi. It is worth recording as a matter of history that the pull of the League appeal, in spite of record-breaking weather, has been astonishing. Under conditions which would have deterred ordinary mortals from venturing out, all meetings have been well attended. This has been particularly true in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

The latest developments from the Middle West

show that St. Paul plans its first meeting in the early part of March, at which Mr. Carstens is expected. Miss Gertrude Cammack is acting chairman, and Pierce Atwater, director of the Community Chest, is helping. They are now organizing their committee.

Minneapolis held its first meeting on February 8, when Miss Grace Abbott, former chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau and now editor of the *Social Service Review*, was the principal speaker. The chairman, Thomas Wallace, president of the Mechanics and Farmers Savings Bank, presided.

Plans are on foot to develop the campaign in Chicago and Milwaukee. Denver has started its work. The Baltimore committee is organized, and vigorous campaigning is beginning at once. A thousand cards have been assigned to committee and team members in Philadelphia. Rochester and Buffalo committees are continuing to send in memberships. Many meetings have been held in Westchester County, New York, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Paul Revere Reynolds, of Scarsdale. The steering committee is securing a chairman in New Haven. Harrisburg wants to know if they can have a committee. Plans are progressing in Richmond, Virginia. There is still some delay in Louisville and in Boston, owing to the necessity for first completing the community chest drives.

### Covering the Country

(Continued from page 3)

As human beings we are inclined to shut out the sad and terrible feeling that the little we can do is useless in the vast area of need, and yet sometimes we must pause and think what those figures mean. Imagine nearly half a million children, if we could see them together—a city of waifs, motherless, homeless, cared for inadequately or not at all, many with the added stigma of unmarried parentage.

Two nation-wide organizations are endeavoring to meet this problem—the Federal Children's Bureau and the Child Welfare League of America. The latter has in its membership some of the most important child-caring agencies in the country. It knits together private welfare and public agencies.

Before the recent depression, standards of child care were steadily advancing, but now with broken homes and greater demand on agencies there is an increased and ever constant need to progress along these lines.

It is so evident that aside from our duty for the

## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA BULLETIN

child's well-being, the very props of our national life are at stake.

The Child Welfare League of America has nine member agencies in Philadelphia, with some 250 board members. That is a very large group of people informed of the needs, and cognizant that: First, for real effectiveness, a movement must be nationwide; second, it must be understood; and third, definite standards must be maintained in child care, and with flexibility so they can constantly grow and improve.

It is our job to interpret and interest, and we would not be meeting our obligation if we failed in this. It is a very big job, and I think one of the surest roads to failure is to minimize our undertakings. It is big in opportunities of service, of interpretation to others, and of giving to it ourselves. But it is like everything else, small if each one will do his or her part. To do that, nine teams are being organized in Philadelphia, and there are approximately 100 people to be visited by each team.

If we remember it is for our own American children, and if we remember our own children, or our own protected, happy childhood, it seems to me we must feel that the least we can do is to give now as a thank offering for our own blessings.

In closing may I add the familiar verse, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

### Tribute to J. Prentice Murphy

(Continued from page 2)

HOWARD CHILDS CARPENTER, M.D., president, Children's Bureau, Philadelphia:

"J. Prentice Murphy gave his life in the service of 'the-least-of-these' that their cups might be filled. His was an amazing love for children; it was the spark which created that burning hope, that light to see, intent to do, and power to accomplish his wonderful work.

"He could always be found on the front firing-line for children. Always a militant fighter, his was a sword of light to right the wrongs of children, yet withal his was a gentle power. He knew that childhood determines the way life will surely go. His endeavor was the rebuilding of broken families so that each child might have a real home in its complete significance. He did valiant work to combat child labor, for he well knew the child laborer's extremity. He gave of his services freely to various child welfare agencies in keeping high their standard of work for neglected and homeless children.

"As executive secretary of the Children's Bureau of Philadelphia, he played a very important part in the protection of this city's dependent children. Through his efforts the Children's Bureau has made a real contribution to the community, and his services were invaluable in maintaining the quality of the work.

"Write him down as one who loved his fellows' children, and one whose enterprise it was to respond to every call: 'Here am I, send me!' He demanded more of himself than of the rest of mankind, constantly assuming new duties and difficulties, for no calling had too serious responsibilities or too vast possibilities for him, if it were to help the helpless. Always was he trying to clear the road ahead over which our poor children must travel.

"The growth of child welfare has been rapid because he did so much to effect the wider spread of knowledge of the needs of children coming from broken homes. With his willingness to serve, and his driving force, he had a function in this world which could not be delegated. It seems to us that we still had need of the work which only he could do.

"His was a triumph to the very end! His was the outstanding speech at the meeting of the Child Welfare League of America just a few days before he climbed up and over that far western hill into the great glorious Beyond."

C. C. CARSTENS, executive director, Child Welfare League of America:

"No one can ever take Prentice Murphy's place in the whole realm of social work, and in the work for children. We, of the League, feel truly orphaned.

"He was in at the League's origin. He has been its true friend, supporter, and counsellor at all times. His last public act was at the League's Philadelphia financial luncheon when he plead for larger support for the League because of its great opportunities for service to the children of the Nation.

"But his interests were broader than devotion to his own organization and to the Child Welfare League of America. He gave unselfishly of his substance and of himself to many causes. He was generous—to a fault—in help, interpretation and appraisal, but none the less he had definite and well considered judgments that never bordered on the sentimental.

"He was fearless and outspoken against injustice to individuals and against oppression of minority groups.

"As might be expected, he was well-read in the literature of his profession, but his friends have often

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marvelled how he got so much done in his busy life and at the same time kept up with the scientific and cultural literature of the day—from which quotations and well-considered conclusions filled his many papers and public addresses.

"No one shrank more from publicity, or did more kindnesses without noise or notice. No one will ever know how many persons have been helped by him over a hard place or were cheered in a dark hour, for he had an uncanny way of speaking the right word of encouragement or of praise at just the telling moment.

"But how fine it is to have had his friendship and the inspiration he brought to all who have known him!"

HOMER FOLKS, secretary, State Charities Aid Association, New York:

"The death of J. Prentice Murphy at the height of his powers, and only a few months before he would occupy the most influential position in social work in this country—the presidency of the National Conference of Social Work, is the greatest loss which could have occurred to the cause of child welfare in America. Little can be said about Prentice which will be new to leaders in child welfare work, but many readers of this BULLETIN had not the great privilege of close personal acquaintance with him.

"Prentice was a charming companion, and a dear friend, though sometimes, so to speak, an uncomfortable one. He was uncomfortable because his mind ranged so freely and so widely, so fruitfully and so searchingly, over the whole field of child welfare. He saw and felt keenly the great unwisdom and injustice of removing children from their homes because of poverty alone; but his mind followed instantly to the necessity of providing not only suitable material relief but also spiritual stimulation and inspiration in those homes. He then, with unerring logic, led on to the common sense and sound wisdom of taking steps to prevent or correct or restrict those widely prevalent conditions which bring crushing misfortune and blighting deprivations to thousands of homes, in which children remain to be cherished and to be matured into persons of character and leadership.

"It was all sound, and all inevitable, if we lived up to a modest share of our opportunities as social workers; but what areas of concern and labor it opened before us. In that sense, he was an uncomfortable companion. He did not shrink from taking onto his shoulders at least his full proportion of those obligations which flow from visible opportunities,

and no friend or companion of his, while in his company, could do otherwise than follow suit.

"He was a great leader in child welfare because he had a fine mind, a unique moral earnestness, a perfect selflessness, and an inability to disregard any of the essential elements in a situation. By the time one caught up with him on any new level, he had already climbed to higher altitudes, and there was nothing to do but to try to follow him.

"Such personalities are rare. They should be treasured, and if there be any conceivable way to do it, they should be sheltered from some, at least, of the opportunities and obligations which they cannot find it possible to turn aside. No one could shelter Prentice Murphy, but his load of sheltering others included no less than the children of America.

"We mourn him as a friend, as a companion, as an inspiration, but most of all, we mourn him for that leadership in behalf of the needy children of America, in which there is no successor."

JACOB KEPECS, superintendent, Jewish Home Finding Society of Chicago:

"I consider the passing of Prentice Murphy a great personal loss, as hundreds and thousands of others undoubtedly do. The pain is still too keen and the emotions too stirred up for the kind of memorial I should like to write. He embodied some of the best qualities of the human race, and few of its defects. His passing leaves a great yawning void."

REV. BRYAN J. MCENTEGART, director, division of children, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York:

"With the death of J. Prentice Murphy on February 2, child welfare work lost one of its most distinctive and beloved leaders. Because of his extensive experience and warm human understanding he was an inspiration to all who were privileged to work with him. His zeal and devotion to the cause of less privileged children were known throughout the nation and the effects of his untiring work will be felt for years to come. May these effects be so lasting that they will constitute a splendid monument to a noble and indefatigable leader."

ORA PENDLETON, assistant secretary, The Children's Bureau of Philadelphia:

"A few slender minutes to write of Prentice Murphy's life with the Children's Bureau! The task is impossible. Memories, thoughts, impressions crowd in on me and on all of us. Our association with him covered only sixteen years, but the imprint of his mind and spirit is timeless.

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"What he gave to his staff associates changed from year to year, with changing times, needs, demands on both sides; yet the essential quality never changed. It broadened and deepened. It was never static, and that was its real significance for us. Our relationship with him was always dynamic and vital, whether here or away as he often was. For each of us it had a different and special meaning. He loved the staff, and we loved him.

"He always shared with us the wide range of his interests. And he was interested in every phase of life, in every lovely form of human expression. He sensed beauty in the most unexpected places; his humor bubbled spontaneously through all his contacts.

"There is no higher tribute than to say he gave freedom for growth to everyone who worked with him. He did more than that. A quiet talk with him—often after hours—sent one homeward toward tomorrow with a new realization of undeveloped capacities. As George Moore said of his friend, A. E., 'It is the mission of some men to enable their fellows to live beyond themselves.'

"We are still too conscious of his death to crystallize the meaning of his life. I can only quote his own words written in 1922 of some of the men and women he revered—'A warm-hearted, sympathetic, yet fair and strong-minded person represents a kind of supreme flowering of civilization.'

"The day after he died someone asked me, 'When was the last time Mr. Murphy was in the Bureau?' I could not answer. I did not know. There lies the heart of our feeling about him. For those who were close to him, in work, and in friendship, there can be no 'last time' with Prentice."

ROBERT B. STONE, president, Children's Aid Association, Boston:

"No words can adequately measure the loss to all children's work involved in the death of J. Prentice Murphy.

"I knew him best during the eight years when he was executive secretary of the Boston Children's Aid Society from 1911 to 1919. His leadership was a marvelous combination of efficiency in executive management and inspired sympathetic understanding of individuals.

"He led the Boston Children's Aid Association through the changes involved both in the period of the Great War and in a doubling of the volume of the society's work, with a combination of wisdom and idealism for which he was beloved by all.

"The work of the Children's Aid Association and,

indeed, that of all social agencies in Boston, is better and stronger because of J. Prentice Murphy."

FORRESTER B. WASHINGTON, director, Atlanta School of Social Work, Atlanta, Georgia (by telegraph):

"In the passing of Prentice Murphy, Negro children, with those of other races, have lost one of their greatest friends. Only once in a generation does a personality appear with such a breadth of human sympathy and sense of fairness for all groups. May the memory of his life inspire others to similar unselfish devotion."

ALFRED F. WHITMAN, executive secretary, Children's Aid Association, Boston:

"Although I never officially worked on any staff under Prentice Murphy, my association with him has been such that I really feel as if I had always been on his staff.

"From the days when he was the general secretary of the Boston Children's Aid Society and I a member of the rank and file, through the years in the old Charity Building on South Fifteenth Street in Philadelphia, and through the many assignments in the Child Welfare League of America on which I worked with him, the great heart and clear vision were always present, and association with him—whether it was as a listener in a big audience at the National Conference or in a brief chat over the coffee cups at breakfast—was always an inspiration.

"I think I have been unduly favored in knowing Prentice as I have, and in being his successor in the Boston work, which brings almost daily reminders of his service here and of the esteem and love of people all through our community, many of whom are not in our official ranks of social work."

## Nursery Schools

NURSERY EDUCATION, THEORY AND PRACTICE, by William E. Blatz, Dorothy Millichamp, and Margaret Fletcher. William Morrow and Company, New York, 1935. 365 pages. \$3.50.

IT is of great interest to parents, laymen, and workers in the field of education and family relationships to find a book which analyzes the work of the nursery school, and sets forth the reasons for its various procedures so that their oft intangible merits can be recognized.

This book, by members of the staff of the St. George's School for Child Study, University of Toronto, gives evidence of a conscientious attempt to apply principles of child guidance to procedures used in the nursery school in that institution. Al-

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though the account is confined to the practices in one school, its interpretation in terms of general principles which anyone may use is its outstanding feature.

The book begins with a statement of the theory of education, and proceeds with a detailed account of what is done by teachers and children in accord with this theory in relation to routine activities, work and play. Further, there is an analysis of social and emotional aspects of behavior of children throughout their active days, and consideration of the practical problems of record-keeping, school and parent cooperation, the preschool child's diet and his physical health. As the narrative is interspersed with guiding principles and illustrations, the reader at all times is convinced of the sincerity of purpose of the authors in carrying out the work of the school for the advancement of the children. The organization of the book makes it easy to use. Logical sections are presented, each being introduced by governing principles followed by practical applications, suggested records and references.

The reader will be impressed with the thoughtful way in which reasons for the activities of the school are set forth. Although occasionally he will feel that the principles cannot be substantiated, he will seldom quarrel with them when left to interpret them for himself.

With the average reader the rub will come when application is made to practice, since agreement on stated principles often leaves wide variation for interpretation. Many will question the emphasis on set techniques such as those described in the use of tracing, stenciling, cutting prepared pictures, sewing cards, et cetera, as means of promoting self-expression and achievement at the four year level; organized group play with set rules as preparation for more formal social requirements of later periods; controlled unit enterprises in painting, leading to more complex ideational output.

They will question, too, the religious observance of saying grace before meals as a pleasant and quieting influence on hungry nursery school babies, and such social practices as giving children of this age the conscious goal of promotion from the junior group to the senior, and a rather wholesale use of isolation of children as a final disciplinary consequence of unacceptable behavior.

Among all readers there will not be complete agreement with the authors that all of the procedures recommended are adapted to the developmental level of the immature nursery school children, nor that the carefully arranged sequence of techniques is conducive to the growth in individual effectiveness

and social living which is desired, yet the book will always serve a useful purpose in stimulating thought. It is only as such attempts are made to analyze in print what things are done in schools, and why they are done, that issues are brought into relief. To set forth related theories and practices as a challenge to thinking is an obligation which more educators should assume.—WINIFRED BAIN, PH.D., New College, Columbia University.

### Children First?

(Continued from page 5)

CONNECTICUT. "There are large fields of service that we should be tackling, but are not because of insufficient funds. . . . Protective work with older children, demonstration of foster home care for delinquents to towns, more service for the unmarried mother, are crying needs, which we should be facing and are not."

### The Unmarried Mother

THE Child Welfare League of America has secured a small quantity of reprints of Mrs. Marguerite McCollum's article, "Foster Home Care of the Unmarried Mother—A Study of Fifteen Cases," which appeared in the January, 1936, issue of *The Family*. As long as the supply lasts, one copy will be sent without charge upon request of League member agencies; additional copies, and copies to non-members, 10 cents each.

### League Directory Change

MASSACHUSETTS—Boston: Bethesda Society. Name changed to Orchard Home School. 31 Mt. Vernon Street. Miss Kate B. Lee, Executive Secretary. (Notice received too late to include in Corrected Listings, February, 1936, supplementing 1935 Directory.)

### Enclosures

(Sent to League Member Agencies Only)

EFFECTS OF THE MASS RELIEF PROGRAM ON SOCIAL WORK FOR CHILDREN—EVALUATED IN TERMS OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, by J. Prentice Murphy. Reprinted for private circulation from Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work, Sixty-second Annual Session (The University of Chicago Press, 1935).

CORRECTED LISTINGS, FEBRUARY, 1936, FOR 1935 DIRECTORY OF MEMBER AGENCIES, CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA. As an economy measure, issuance of a Directory of Member Agencies for 1936 has been postponed. Corrected listings, 10 cents per copy. 1935 Directory, together with corrected listings, 50 cents per copy.